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Kabuki Play

"LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS WRITTEN IN THE JAPANESE
CURSIVE SYLLABARY" (Hiragana-Seisuiki)

by

BUNKODO

Matsuemon Uchi
Sakuro

145
153
160

Ransu

- Scene of Matsuemon's Residence
- Scene of the Inverted Oar
- Scene of the Pine-Tree Used As Watch-Tower



20, 28

To Be Presented by Kichiemon Troupe at The MITSUKOSHI
Theater From Nov. 5th, to Nov. '47.

"LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS WRITTEN IN THE JAPANESE
CURSIVE SYLLABARY"
(HIRAGANA-SEISUIKI)

Synopsis:

Kiso-Yoshinaka's retainer Higuchi-Jiro-Kanemitsu had married into Fisherman Gonshiro's family and changed his name to Matsuemon.

Thanks to the usage of an inverted oar into the secrets of which Matsuemon had been initiated by his father-in-law Gonshiro, through the good offices of Kajiware, Matsuemon was expected to become Yoshitsune's boatman and shared the joy with his family. Thereupon O-fude called on them and asked them to give her back her master's son Komawakagimi whom she had once exchanged for their child by mistake. As for Gonshiro, he thought that she had brought his grandson Uematsu with her and expressed his joy. Against his expectation, however, he was told by O-fude that Uematsu had died, so he lost his temper and tried to kill the child under their care as his grandson's enemy when Matsuemon dissuaded him from doing so and told him that the child in question was Yoshinaka's child Komawaka-gimi and Matsuemon was Higuchi-Kanemitsu, in reality.

Matsuemon was glad that his foster-child Uematsu had died for the young master and as a result he himself became faithful to the young master. Soon after Matsuemon went out for the practice of the inverted oar together with three boatmen who had called on him.

Off the coast of Fukushima, Matsuemon gave the three boatmen a lesson in the usage of the inverted oar. According to Kajiwara's directions, however, the three boatmen tried to arrest Matsuemon taking advantage of his unguarded moment.

On the other hand, Gonshiro informed against Matsuemon to Shigetada, because he thought he would be unable to harbour the latter any longer. In reward for his labour, he pleaded for Uematsu, in reality, Komawakagini's life. After all Matsuemon was arrested.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE:

Fisherman Gonshiro:

Gonshiro's Daughter O-yoshi (Matsuenon's Wife);

O-yoshi's Son Uenatsu (in reality, Konawaka-gimi);

Fisherman Matsuenon (in reality, Higuchi-Jiro-Kanenitsu);

Tombe's Daughter O-fude;

Fisherman Tonizo;

10 Kurosaku;

" Lataroku;

Hatakeyama-Jiro-Shigetada;

Numbers of Shigetada's Followers;

The Others: Priest and Pilgrims.

1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100 2101 2102 2103 2104 2105 2106 2107 2108 2109 2110 2111 2112 2113 2114 2115 2116 2117 2118 2119 2120 2121 2122 2123 2124 2125 2126 2127 2128 2129 2130 2131 2132 2133 2134 2135 2136 2137 2138 2139 2140 2141 2142 2143 2144 2145 2146 2147 2148 2149 2150 2151 2152 2153 2154 2155 2156 2157 2158 2159 2160 2161 2162 2163 2164 2165 2166 2167 2168 2169 2170 2171 2172 2173 2174 2175 2176 2177 2178 2179 2180 2181 2182 2183 2184 2185 2186 2187 2188 2189 2190 2191 2192 2193 2194 2195 2196 2197 2198 2199 2200 2201 2202 2203 2204 2205 2206 2207 2208 2209 2210 2211 2212 2213 2214 2215 2216 2217 2218 2219 2220 2221 2222 2223 2224 2225 2226 2227 2228 2229 2230 2231 2232 2233 2234 2235 2236 2237 2238 2239 2240 2241 2242 2243 2244 2245 2246 2247 2248 2249 2250 2251 2252 2253 2254 2255 2256 2257 2258 2259 2260 2261 2262 2263 2264 2265 2266 2267 2268 2269 2270 2271 2272 2273 2274 2275 2276 2277 2278 2279 2280 2281 2282 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 2288 2289 2290 2291 2292 2293 2294 2295 2296 2297 2298 2299 2300 2301 2302 2303 2304 2305 2306 2307 2308 2309 2310 2311 2312 2313 2314 2315 2316 2317 2318 2319 2320 2321 2322 2323 2324 2325 2326 2327 2328 2329 2330 2331 2332 2333 2334 2335 2336 2337 2338 2339 2340 2341 2342 2343 2344 2345 2346 2347 2348 2349 2350 2351 2352 2353 2354 2355 2356 2357 2358 2359 2360 2361 2362 2363 2364 2365 2366 2367 2368 2369 2370 2371 2372 2373 2374 2375 2376 2377 2378 2379 2380 2381 2382 2383 2384 2385 2386 2387 2388 2389 2390 2391 2392 2393 2394 2395 2396 2397 2398 2399 2400 2401 2402 2403 2404 2405 2406 2407 2408 2409 2410 2411 2412 2413 2414 2415 2416 2417 2418 2419 2420 2421 2422 2423 2424 2425 2426 2427 2428 2429 2430 2431 2432 2433 2434 2435 2436 2437 2438 2439 2440 2441 2442 2443 2444 2445 2446 2447 2448 2449 2450 2451 2452 2453 2454 2455 2456 2457 2458 2459 2460 2461 2462 2463 2464 2465 2466 2467 2468 2469 2470 2471 2472 2473 2474 2475 2476 2477 2478 2479 2480 2481 2482 2483 2484 2485 2486 2487 2488 2489 2490 2491 2492 2493 2494 2495 2496 2497 2498 2499 2500 2501 2502 2503 2504 2505 2506 2507 2508 2509 2510 2511 2512 2513 2514 2515 2516 2517 2518 2519 2520 2521 2522 2523 2524 2525 2526 2527 2528 2529 2530 2531 2532 2533 2534 2535 2536 2537 2538 2539 2540 2541 2542 2543 2544 2545 2546 2547 2548 2549 2550 2551 2552 2553 2554 2555 2556 2557 2558 2559 2560 2561 2562 2563 2564 2565 2566 2567 2568 2569 2570 2571 2572 2573 2574 2575 2576 2577 2578 2579 2580 2581 2582 2583 2584 2585 2586 2587 2588 2589 2590 2591 2592 2593 2594 2595 2596 2597 2598 2599 2600 2601 2602 2603 2604 2605 2606 2607 2608 2609 2610 2611 2612 2613 2614 2615 2616 2617 2618 2619 2620 2621 2622 2623 2624 2625 2626 2627 2628 2629 2630 2631 2632 2633 2634 2635 2636 2637 2638 2639 2640 2641 2642 2643 2644 2645 2646 2647 2648 2649 2650 2651 2652 2653 2654 2655 2656 2657 2658 2659 2660 2661 2662 2663 2664 2665 2666 2667 2668 2669 2670 2671 2672 2673 2674 2675 2676 2677 2678 2679 2680 2681 2682 2683 2684 2685 2686 2687 2688 2689 2690 2691 2692 2693 2694 2695 2696 2697 2698 2699 2700 2701 2702 2703 2704 2705 2706 2707 2708 2709 2710 2711 2712 2713 2714 2715 2716 2717 2718 2719 2720 2721 2722 2723 2724 2725 2726 2727 2728 2729 2730 2731 2732 2733 2734 2735 2736 2737 2738 2739 2740 2741 2742 2743 2744 2745 2746 2747 2748 2749 2750 2751 2752 2753 2754 2755 2756 2757 2758 2759 2760 2761 2762 2763 2764 2765 2766 2767 2768 2769 2770 2771 2772 2773 2774 2775 2776 2777 2778 2779 2780 2781 2782 2783 2784 2785 2786 2787 2788 2789 2790 2791 2792 2793 2794 2795 2796 2797 2798 2799 2800 2801 2802 2803 2804 2805 2806 2807 2808 2809 2810

The main stage is a double stage about eighteen feet square. In the middle there is the threshold of the dressing-room; on the right, the living-room nine feet high; in front, the closed paper sliding-doors; and at the entrance there are a priest and some pilgrims telling their beads.

Priest: By golly! Well, everybody, I'm glad you've said a mass for the repose of his soul in earnest.

Take a rest and have a smoke, won't you?

A: Well, we're offering up prayers not only for the repose of his soul but also for ourselves, aren't we?

B: Right you are!

(Gonshiro, O-yoshi and a child come out.)

Gonshiro: Oh, everybody, thank you for the trouble you have taken.

Here, here, my dear daughter, give them something to eat.

O-yoshi: Now, now, everybody, please help yourselves to these to your satisfaction though they aren't delicious, I'm afraid.

All: Never mind, never mind. Well, then, we'll take them.

(All of them eat.)

Priest: By the way, old man, whose anniversary is today?

All: Please tell us.

Gonshiro: Today is the third anniversary of the death of my daughter's former husband, this child Uematsu's real father, with whom you had been on familiar terms, so we've made coarse tea. We should let you use chopsticks in eating, but you see, I've made my pilgrimage to the holy places throughout the length and breadth of the country with my daughter and grandson who are poor walkers and have quite recently returned home, so we haven't made anything special.

O-yoshi: You see, we're short-handed and besides, this child teases me for anything he sees. Please help yourselves to them --- the trifling eatables.

A: Oh, three years have already passed since his death! Time flies like an arrow. Sugiemon-dono has recently married into his wife's family and we haven't kept company with him for a long time, so we don't know what sort of man he is, though.

B: This child Uematsu's dead father was a good-natured man.

C: By the bye, what we would like to know is this. When you went on a pilgrimage to the holy places of the country with this ~~zix~~ child Uematsu, he was fat, tall for his age and seemed to be sturdy.

Priest: Indeed!
When we saw this child playing about lively both

indoors and outdoors, we envied his energy. However, now he looks pale, thin, disfigured, small in stature and weak.

Is this the consequence of your pilgrimage?

All: Is that so?

Gonshiro: Well, I'll have to tell you. In fact, this child isn't Uematsu, but another child.

Priest: Huh?

All: Another child, eh?

Gonshiro: I'm horrified even to recall why he is another child.

Hear me out, please.

My dear daughter, what night was it, I wonder?

O-yoshi: The night of the twenty-eighth.

Gonshiro: Oh, that's right.

On the twenty-eighth of the month before last after paying homage to the Mitsu Temple, we put up at an inn of Hatcho, Otsu in the night when we heard numbers of warriors shouting, "We've caught him, we've caught him."

You see, I shudder at even telling you of it.

Thereupon we lost presence of mind and I managed to carry the child on my back.

We ran away and after all escaped from the danger till we got to the Okami (Wolf) Valley where the splash from the valley and the sound of pine-trees swayed by the wind reminded us of the footsteps of

the pursuers running after us, so we hurriedly walked some four miles in utter darkness without drinking even a glass of water and reached Fushimi for our life when for the first time I looked at the face of the child on my back and knew I had exchanged the real child for the fellow lodgers' by mistake while talking with them over the screen, so my daughter coaxed me to run there and exchange the child for the real one.

I understood how she felt and wanted to go and exchange the child for the real one, but I couldn't walk for fear, so I said:

"I should like to do so, but I can't walk even a step farther. I'm sure we shall have an opportunity of exchanging the child for the real one some day, so we mustn't treat the fellow-lodgers' child carelessly. If we bring up this child with care, I'm sure Kwannon (the Goddess of Mercy) at the thirty-three places will help us. Anyway, let's go home and get rid of the fear." On the following afternoon, at Fushimi we jumped into a boat in motion and started for home. During the time, however, the child cried for milk, so my daughter suckled the child.

Months have passed since then and we've brought up the child calling him Uematsu, so he has come to think that Uematsu is his name and calls me "Grandpapa,

grandpapa".

Now we care for him just like real Uematsu.

O-yoshi: Although it was a disaster, by a strange tie we've come to bring up this child, so can't regard him as a perfect stranger's child.

He calls me "mama, mama" and drinks my milk.

Since I gives the breast to this child, he's just like our son. -

A: Oh, from what we've heard from you, we've dispelled our doubt, Sooner or later Kwannon will smile on you.

B: And they will surely bring Uematsu here.

C: You'd better not be disappointed about it.

Priest: By the way, everybody, we've drunk too much tea and eaten more than enough.

Let's leave here now, shall we?

Gonshiro: Oh, don't ^hurry away.

Priest: O-yoshi-dono, when Matsuemon-dono comes back-----.

All: Please give our best regards to him.

"All of them go out when over there -----."

(Just then Matsuemon comes out of the stage passage and meets them on the stage passage.)

Priest: Hallo, Matsuemon-dono, today we've called at your house in your absence.

All: And we've been treated to something nice by them, so must thank you.

Matsueemon: Oh, are you going home, everybody?

Today is the third anniversary of his former son-in-law's death. I ought to have stayed in and entertained you at dinner, but was obliged to go out on an inevitable business. Recently I've become the head of the family, you know. Please stay a little longer.

A: Oh, we've stayed too long.

B: The remaining tea will bring you good luck, so drink it enough and go to sleep.

All: Please do so.

Matsueemon: Well, then, everybody.

All: Matsueemon-dono.

Matsueemon: See you again tomorrow.

All: We'll see you then.

(All of them leave. Matsueemon comes to the entrance.)

Matsueemon: Father, I'm back now.

Gonshiro: Oh, my son-in-law, thank you for your trouble.

O-yoshi: Are you back, my darling?

Matsueemon: Well, although I wanted to come back earlier and make a fire for warming the kettle, the daimyo (A feudal lord) had a long talk with me, so I'm sorry I'm late. You must be very tired now.

O-yoshi: Not a bit.

You must be very hungry.

Shall I give you dinner?

Matsuemmon: ^O~~A~~h, no, I don't want to take dinner yet.

When I want, I'll ask you.

O-yoshi: Well, then, tell me to do so when you feel hungry.

Gonshiro: By the way, my son-in-law, what were you
summoned to him today for?

Nothing to be anxious about?

Matsuemmon: Please don't worry about it.

I'll tell you why I was called to him today.

Well, father, among the daimyos, Kajiwara-sama
must be especially scrupulous.

When I got there, I said to the inner room, "By
order of the lord, I, Boatman Matsuemmon, have
come here and after a while his retainer
Banba-No-Chuta-sama came out and said:

"About the inverted oar which you gave to the lord
the other day, we must make a close ~~examination~~
examination, so wait for a while."

After saying so, he went to the inner room and
let me wait about three hours and then came back
when he said, "The lord will soon come here and
see you."

After a while the lord came and said to me in a
dignified manner, "Are you Boatman Matsuemmon?
Are you going to tell Yoshitsune who are good
at stratagem of the secrets of the inverted oar
of which I, Kagetoki, know well?"

Hear me out. Have you ever practised military training with the inverted oar in a ship? Answer my question."

In reply to his question, I replied, "This time I, Matsuemon, have taken a lesson in usage of the inverted oar from my father-in-law for the first time in my life. Excuse me, but since I'm a mere boatman, I've never seen a battle.

As to the inverted oar, my father-in-law has initiated me into the secrets of its usage." So I said perfunctorily when he continued to say, "Well, then, you gather able boatmen together and secretly practise steering a ship with the inverted oar and then tell me of the result. If you succeed in the attempt, you shall be the boatman of the general's ship. In reward for your service, I, Kajiwara, will recommend you as chief boatman for generations and you shall have lots of worldly goods."

Hearing his direct words, I hurriedly started for home.

On my way home, I met boatman Mataroku of the Hiyoshimaru, Kurosaku of the Nadayoshi and Tomizo of the Myojin-maru and told them of the matter, so they are to come here this evening so as to practise the usage of the inverted oar with me. Then, I'll show them my skill which I learnt from you. I'll be able

to rise in the world rapidly.

My dear boy, you shall wear splendid clothes soon.

What I am today owe you a great deal, father.

I appreciate your kindness.

Gonshiro: Well, a clumsy guy would never make progress in the art even if I should give him lessons in it for a thousand or ten thousand years. Although you were an amateur in this line, you'll be able to become the general's boatman in less than one year since I initiated you into the secrets.

That's because you're clever with your fingers.

You may well be proud of it, you may well be proud of it.

Congratulations, my son-in-law! You'd better take a rest.

Well, won't you go and get some rice wine for twelve copper coins?

O-yoshi: Very well.

Matsueemon: Never mind, never mind. Immediately before

I left the mansion, I was given some rice-wine with the brand of Kurosaku's nickname.

Since I drank together with the daimyo, I had to sit upright and behave myself against my will, so I felt as if I had come across the storm in the open sea.

Excuse me, father, but I should like to take a snooze. Oh, my dear boy, are you going to sleep?

~~Shall I put you to bed?~~

"To the dressing-room"

Father!

Gonshiro: My son-in-law!

Matsuemon: Will you please excuse me for a moment."

"Does he go."

Gonshiro: My dear daughter, cover his skirt with something.

Since he's expected to rise in the world, you mustn't let him catch cold.

Offer a sacred light on the altar of god for boatmen.

O-yoshi: I have already done so.

Gonshiro: Offer sacred rice-wine on it, as well.

O-yoshi: I have already done so, as well.

Gonshiro: Offer it to this god for boatmen, too.

O-yoshi: Oh, father, you're very smart.

Gonshiro: Oh, you've made ready for it a little.

You're a dutiful daughter.

"Even in his stale play upon words his respect for God is understood and two bottles of rice-wine symbolize his paternal love. The wife strikes a flint in celebration of her husband's success in life.

Her mind is purified by the sacred light.

God will smile upon the honest people."

"After experiencing hardships and privations,
O-fude reaches her destination with the pine-tree
as a sign."

O-fude: Excuse me, but is this Boatman Matsuemon-sama's
residence? I want to see him.

"She carries herself beautifully".

O-yoshi: Here is Matsuemon's residence. Please step in.

I say, father, here comes a beautiful woman.

Maybe she is in love with him, I think.

"Without knowing the circumstances, she says so
out of jealousy."

Gonshiro: Don't talk nonsense.

Behave yourself even if she is a young woman.

If she turns out to be Matsuemon's sister, will
you say such a thing out of jealousy?

Who are you?

Matsuemon is at home.

Please step in without reserve.

O-fude: Well, then, are you Matsuemon-sama?

I haven't become acquainted with you yet, so I can't
recognize you, though.

Gonshiro: Why have you come here, then?

O-fude: The basket on which is written "Uematsu, son of
Matsuemon of Fukuoka, Sesshu Province led me here.

Gonshiro: Huh? Well, then, on the night of the twenty-
eighth of the month before last-----?

O-fude: Yes, I'm the careless woman who exchanged ~~from~~ ^{yours} my child
~~mine~~ for ~~mine~~ by mistake.

Gonshiro: No wonder I thought I had seen you once. Say,

O-yoshi, I'll tell you of a good news.

She's a lady who exchanged her son for Uematsu by mistake.

Now, please step in.

Don't stand on ceremony.

O-fude: No, I won't stand on ceremony.

"She enters the room making an excuse."

Gonshiro: We ought to have looked for his whereabouts and taken him back, but have been at a loss how to seek for him for lack of evidence.

Nor have we had any clue to his whereabouts up to now.

As to your child whom we mistook for ours, he has never

hurt himself nor has he had a stomachache up to now.

My daughter suckles him enough, so he takes any other food only a little.

O-yoshi: Indeed he has never caught cold; we've looked after him carefully.

I'm sure you've also taken good care of our child.

I'm glad you've kindly taken the child here.

Gonshiro: Here, here, Uematsu, why won't you step in?

Have you forgotten your house?

O-fude: Sorry to say, your child in question isn't at the entrance.

Gonshiro: Then, will your servant take him here later on? My daughter, won't you thank her right away?

O-yoshi: Certainly, father. I can't express my thanks to her too much, I should say. I wonder why Uematsu is late in coming.

Gonshiro: I should like to see him right away.

"Being anxious about his grandchild's health, he expresses his thanks to her together with his daughter.

Seeing their delighted look, O-fude gets dejected and keeps silent for a while, but -----."

O-fude: I have called on you so as to ask you a favor though I've been ashamed to do so.

You're over-joyed, so I rather hesitate to speak to you.

Please listen to me.

Now I recall that night you hid yourselves quickly for piety's sake as pilgrims.

As for us, however, one of us was a patient.

"The man was sick and old, so he was a burden to her."

As to the child for whom I exchanged my ~~son~~ ^{child} by mistake -----.

Gonshiro: What became of the child?

O-fude: Now, please tell us of the child.

Gonshiro & O-yoshi: How about the child?

O-fude: Sorry to say, that night the child passed away.

"Hearing her words, no wonder they got startled before bursting into tears."

Although I know man is mortal, I was very sad that night. Anyway I've lived out up to today and made an excuse to you.

"Please vent your rancour in listening to my story."

I can't speak in a loud voice, but the person whom I called my maid-servant was, in fact, my mistress.

As for the young master, I carried him in my arms and once from the inn "did we escape, though."

A great many warriors ran after us. Although we fought with them for protection, since he was an old man, he died fighting very soon.

Moreover, they snatched the young master from me, so I wanted to snatch him back from them and "ran about in the pitch-dark night when I found out a shadow behind a hedge made of the bamboo-grass."

Then I thought I found out the young master, but when I took up the body, I knew the body had already been cut off the head. When I looked

closely at the body, however, I knew it wasn't the

young master's dead body.

This basket is an evidence for the fact. Then I recognized I must have exchanged the young master for another child by mistake due to the confusion.

Thereupon I thought the young master had been saved from his death and felt at ease for a while, but since the other child had been killed in his place, I was at a loss how to take back the young master. Because of the matter, the young master's maid-servant became ill and soon died on the spot. What with my sorrow and what with my mental anguish, I've resigned myself to fate and called on you with this basket as a sign. I want you to give up your child who passed away and give me back the young master, but now that I've heard that you've looked after him with care, I feel sorry for your child's death. ^{will} ~~will~~ you please understand my mind?

"She falls forward on her face and bursts out crying. As to the dead child's grandfather, he does not lose his presence of mind so much, but his daughter loses her head."

O-yoshi: I say, Uematsu. I'll tell you. Last night I dreamt of you in your former father's arms when he worshipped at the Tennoji Temple. Moreover, today is the anniversary of your father's death. "Today is the anniversary of his death and I've heard this sad news."

Although we've been looking forward to the child's coming back up to today, we've met such a great disaster.

God hasn't smiled on us.

"Although we've made our pilgrimage to the holy places of the country, Kwannon hasn't given us any benefit. How vexing!

How I long for the dead child!"

Alas! I wish I were dreaming of this matter.

"She throws herself down in tears."

Gonshiro: Here, here, my daughter, don't cry.

Even if you cry, Uematsu won't revive and come back.

I've always told you not to grumble about the matter, haven't you?

"She makes good use of his words."

O-fude: Oh, that's right. Don't grumble about that.

As your father has said, however you lament over Uematsu-sama's death, he won't revive and come back. With you please give him up for lost and hand me over the young master?

Then I'll appreciate your kindness.

If so, it'll be a better mass for the repose of dead Uematsu-sama than hundreds and thousands of priests' prayers at thousands of temples.

Gonshiro: Silence!

Don't talk big.

Fie for shame!

You see, we must pay more scrupulous attention to bringing up a perfect stranger's child from a sense of our obligations and human feelings than bringing up our child who might hurt himself a ~~xx~~ little out of our carelessness.

Judging from your words that he is your master's son and you call him the young master, it seems to me that you aren't a woman of humble birth.

As for me, I'm a hereditary helmsman and have made a living in steering a ship, though. Shall I let you see the child whom we've looked after with scrupulous care?

Oh, no, I won't let you see the child. We've looked after the child in expectation of our child's coming back under your care.

Well, you might find fault with us and say why we hadn't called on you about the matter, but we haven't known your address. However, you have the basket on which our address is written.

We've been looking forward to your coming here with our child and thinking how to express our thanks to you day in day out, but in vain. Say, just look at this screen.

Our dear Uematsu teased us for this though we wanted to get it in the latter part of the year, so we were obliged to get it for him and he walked about with ^{it} joyfully to the Mitsui Temple together with us. It's the Otsu picture of the goblin Sosen and Geho-dono shaving his forehead with the paper-door on his head. We didn't get a picture of a mountain covered with the blossoms of a wistaria, but got the picture of Geho-dono, because we wanted him to live out until his hair would become as gray as the old man's in the picture and to be as healthy and wealthy as the goblin with the worldly people clinging to him for money like so many brats. The picture symbolizes such a good omen.

We have kept it so that he would return home well and take delight in seeing it.

Now I think our child became a brat crawling up to the goblin and offering up prayers for mercy's ~~xxx~~ sake.

I'm so rry he met such an unnatural death out of your carelessness.

In spite of that, you want us to return the young master to you.

How brazen-faced you are!

Oh, I'll give you back the child to you.

Although I'm a commoner, I'll behead the child so as to avenge my grandchild's death and hand you over his body.

"He rises to his feet when O-fude gets astonished and clings to him, but he pushes her aside and thrusts her away and then opens the paper-door of the dressing-room. Lo & behold! There Matsueemon holding the young master under his arm and wearing swords at side draws himself to his full height."

O-fude: My goodness! You are -----.

Matsueemon: Here, here, woman, you're the woman who glanced at Hi-No-Kuchi (a water-pipe) some time ago, aren't you?

Your young master is alright, as he is in my hands.

If necessary, I'll tell you my name. Don't mistake Hi-No-Kuchi for Higuchi.

Don't make a mistake.

"He makes a sign to her with the eye when she calms down and pretends ignorance."

Gonshiro: Well done, Matsueemon!

The confusion must have disturbed you from your sleep. You heard her, I should think.

The child is your foster-child's enemy. Cut him to pieces and hand his body over to the woman.

Matsueemon: No, I won't.

Gonshiro: Why won't you do so?

Matsueemon: Well, well -----

Gonshiro: It shows lack of affection on your part to say such a thing, Matsueemon. Even if you don't tell me of the reason, I understand your mind.

You didn't beget Uematsu, so you look composed.

I don't think you'll let me do as I wish; I understand your mind.

Now I've become desperate.

Unless you act as I wish, I'll break off with you.

Say, my daughter, go hurriedly for a great many men.

"He urges her to go for a great many men impatiently."

Matsueemon: Wait, my dear wife! You needn't call for other men. Father, are you going to deal with this child as you please, for you regard him as Uematsu's enemy?

Gonshiro: Of course.

Matsueemon: Well, now I can't help it, so I'll tell you of my real name and the circumstances in detail.

"He lets O-fude hold the young master in her arms."

Gonshiro, lower your head. I say, lower your head.

Like the thunder rumbling and shaking earth and sky, you must have heard of his name even though you have never seen him.

Here is Komawaka-gimi, son of Lord Kiso Yoshinaka the Rising-sun Shogun.

As for me, I am Higuchi-No-Jiro-Kanemitsu.

Both father and daughter get startled to hear his words.

No wonder they have done so.

Higuchi turns to O-fude."

Well, I've heard from you that his godfather Hayato-dono died fighting though you also fought bravely unlike a woman, so you must be disappointed, I think. In this connection, you must doubt my ---- Higuchi's - present condition.

By order of the lord, I went to war at the province of Kauchi so as to chastise Tada-No-Kurando-Yukiie who was a wicked man though he was the young master's uncle.

Soon after my departure, the lord and his troops fought with the forces sent against him from Kamakura at Awazu and as a result he was obliged to perform "harakiri". Immediately after that, I wanted to wreak my wrath on them in fighting with them because of the lord's death, but I thought better of it.

In order to avenge the lord's death by killing Noriyori and Yoshitsune, I married into this family as a last resort.

"On the pretext of the usage of the inverted oar, I got acquainted with Kajiwara."

And I, Matsueemon, was appointed as the boatman of Yoshitsune's ship and expected to fulfil my purpose. However, I wanted to know the young master's whereabouts.

And I was in mental anguish."

Just then I overheard of the story across the paper-door, so I looked closely at the child and knew he must be Komawaka-gimi though he looked emaciated.

Anyway the young master was fortunate, as he had been saved from his death because of the exchange.

Although he has been living with us, I haven't known up to now that he's the young master.

"The killed Uematsu was Higuchi's foster-child."

And he died instead of the young master.

That's because I'm his faithful retainer. I'm glad to know that my foster-child also became faithful to the young master.

"How happy I am!"

Father, I owe you a great deal in this respect. You've adopted me as your son and I've respected you as my father-in-law.

Since Uematsu was my foster-child, he should have been faithful to the young master, too. Whatever you and my wife may say, I shan't be able to take the young master's life as our son's enemy.

Uematsu died gloriously for the young master as a warrior's son. I, his foster-father, am proud of his death.

However, father, I can take pride in his death because you adopted me as your son.

How shall I be able to let you kill the young master as your grandson's enemy or how shall I be able to kill him myself and be charged with the ill name of the murderer of the young master? Although I understand your indignation and grief, we're all the members of the same family united with a close tie, so please let me live up to the chivalrous spirit as a warrior.

Allow me to be devoted to the young master, father.

"Like a faithful retainer that Higuchi is, he asks his father-in-law to understand his mind.

Higuchi is the strongest retainer of the four Devos in the service of the House of Kiso."

Gonshiro: Indeed!

Since I adopted you as my son and you're a warrior, I must also understand a warrior's spirit. Your young master is also my master.

Oh, I understand.

Now, my dear son-in-law, lift your hand, please.

I say, lift your hand, please.

Now I won't bear a grudge against the young master nor shall I grieve over my grandson's death any more. I won't shed tears, either. My daughter, I hope you'll give birth to another Uematsu.

Matsueemon: Well, then, are you persuaded of it?

Gonshiro: Yes, I am.

Matsueemon: Oh, are you persuaded of it really?

Thank you very much.

"Both of them understand each other as if they found out a port aboard a floating ship in the open sea a thousand miles away."

O-fude: Higuchi-dono, now that I've come to understand your mind, I needn't worry about this young master.

I hear my younger sister is in domestic service at Kitakamisaki. Besides, I want to look after my husband's whereabouts and since my father was assassinated at Otsu, [I should like to avenge my father's death and put the assassinator's head before his grave.] You see, I'm busy, so I must be off now.

"She rises to her feet".

Matsueemon: Well, then, I won't detain you any longer.

Anyway, you'd better do as you like.

Gonshiro: Oh, don't say such a thing.

Won't you stay here at least for a few days for recreation?

What do you say, O-yoshi?

O-Yoshi: As father said, now that we've become familiar with you though at first we complained to you

about something or other, won't you stay here overnight at least?

O-fude: Thank you for your kindness, but as you heard me, I'm very busy, so please look after the young master.

O-yoshi: Don't worry about the matter. See you again after you fulfil your cherished-desires.

O-fude: Well, the everybody-----

Gonshiro: Good-bye, travelling woman.

O-fude: Good-bye.

"They see Ofude to the gate. Ofude parts from them and goes out."

Gonshiro: Well, she behaved herself well, because she has been brought up in a warrior's family.

My daughter, you ought to follow her example from now on. Here is the troublesome basket. Throw it away right now.

Matsuemon: Oh, it's too hard-hearted of you to say such a thing. You'd better put it on the family altar and burn incense before it.

Gonshiro: Won't people regard it as an unmanly conduct and snigger at me, as I've now become a warrior's father-in-law?

Matsuemon: Nobody will laugh at you even if you do so, I can assure you.

AS A WARRIOR'S FATHER

Gonshiro: As a matter of fact, I've wanted to to do, as I wanted him to enjoy longevity. Sorry to say, Uematsu died at the age of only six. Save us, merciful Buddha! Come over here, my son-in-law and daughter.

"The three persons look at each other and shed tears."

"Now it is toward dusk. According to the promise, with Mataroku at the head, Tomizo and Kurosaku -- three in all -- come to the entrance and shout."

Three: Matsuemon-dono, Matsuemon-dono, are you in or out?
We have kept our promise.

Tomizo: I'm Tomizo.

Kurosaku: I'm Kurosaku.

Mataroku: I'm Mataroku.

Tomizo: For the practice of the inverted oar, -----.

Three: We have come, we have come.

"They shout."

Matsuemon: Oh, thank you for your trouble.

Step in and smoke tobacco, won't you?

Three: Oh, no, since it's an urgent business, we'll make efforts for the practice and then smoke.

Matsuemon: Well, then, let's go to the port.

Three: Matsuemon-dono.

Matsuemon: Now, let's go, let's go.

"They go together."

----- ACT DROP -----

On the main stage there is a ship in front.

With the roar of the sea, the curtain rises.

The four men are in the ship.

Three: Matsuemon-dono, Matsuemon-dono, although you've supported your family as a boatman, how have you come to use the inverted oar after all?

Matsuemon: Oh, no wonder you don't know how to use it. I'll tell you of its usage. Tomizo, put it like this. Kurosaku, do like this. Mataroku, put it in this way. This is what's called the inverted oar.

Three: Oh, boy!

"Generally speaking, in the battle on land, horsemanship is a key to victory."

Matsuemon: As you know, a ship is at the mercy of the waves.

"When we propel the ship by the wind,-----"

Port the helm!

Three: Starboard the helm!

Matsuemon: Now, put the helm hard a-starboard.

Three: Okay. Row, row, row a boat.

"They begin to row."

"Taking advantage of Matsuemon's unguarded moment, Tomizo and Kurosaku try to knock him down with the oar.

(He starts grappling with them.)

----- ACT DROP -----

In the middle of the main-stage there is
a large pine-tree with the sea for a background.

Just then from the stage passage come out
Tomizo, Kurosaku, Mataroku and numbers of other
men and from the left comes out Matsueemon.

Matsueemon: Here, here, everybody, what are
you goin' to do with me?

Tomizo: Don't pretend ignorance. You must
be Kiso Yoshinaka's retainer Higuchi-
No-Jiro.

Mataroku: Kajiwara-sama knows well of you.
On the pretext of the practice of the
inverted oar -----.

Kurosaku: We've been strictly ordered to arrest
you by our lord.
Now, without resistance you should
be arrested -----.

Three: By us.
"Higuchi bursts out laughing."

Matsu: I'll tell you of my name if you want.
Listen to me.
"Among the Rising-sun Shogun Kiso
Yoshinaka's retainers I was called

one of the four Devos."

I am Higuchi-No-Jiro-Kanemitsu.

It's silly of you to try to arrest me,
for you're just like so many ants trying
to pull a big anchor.

Arrest me if you could.

"He holds out his hands and draws
himself to his full height."

Tomizo:

Be ready!

(Thereupon he has a rough-tumble
with them and as a result they all
run off.)

"They have run away in all directions.

He is on his guard.

Just then the sound of a war-drum is
heard. He finds out the pine-tree
serving as a watch-tower."

(Thereupon he climbs up the pine-
tree.)

"He looks all around."

Matsu:

In the north is Ebie under the juris-
diction of Nagae.

"In the east lies Tenman Village,
Kawasaki."

In the south is Mitsuga Beach of
Tsumura Village.

"In the west there is Genji's camp.
I've no place to live in peacefully."
Well, then, they're going to surround
me, I think.

How cheeky they are!

"He jumps down from the tree deter-
minedly."

My dear wife, my dear wife.

(O-Yoshi comes out and hands him the
swords.)

Oyoshi: Well, darling, I'll tell you. Father
prized the wall of the dressing-
room open and went somewhere.

Matsue: Hm, he must have gone to inform
against me, I'm sorry I believed in
the boatman's oath.

Now I feel as if I had my hand bitten
by my own dog. Pshaw!

"Just then a voice is heard over there."

Shigetada: Hallo, Higuchi-No-Jiro-Kanemitsu,
I, Hatakeyama-Jiro-Shegetada will see
you again.

THAT A WARRIOR LIKE HIGUCHI

"With a lighted high paper-lantern
exalting his military prestige, led
by Gonshiro -----."

(Just then Shigetada comes out with
Gonshiro ahead of him, accompanied
by his followers.)

Oyoshi: Oh, father, I've a grudge against you.

Gon: Tut, tut! I'll admit I informed against
him, but even if I hadn't done so,
Kajiwara-sama knows well that Matsuemon
is Higuchi-No-Giro in reality, so he
ordered Tomizo and Kurosaku to arrest
Higuchi. Not only that, but the police
cordon has been ~~drawn~~ drawn in every
direction, so Higuchi's life hangs by
a hair like a caged bird. Even if he
cares for his life so much, he won't
be able to escape from his death.
I informed against him to Hatakeyama-
sama about Uematsu.

Oyoshi: Now you've spoken about Uematsu, but
you see, Matsuemon-dono has lost his
temper about Uematsu and -----.

Gon: He can't have lost his temper. Hear me
out.

I was afraid my grandson might share the same fate with him because of their superficial relation.

That's why I insisted that he isn't Higuchi's son, but my dead son-in-law Matsuemon's. Do you understand me? Since they aren't real father and son, in reward for my having informed against him I asked the lord to save my grandson's life, so he gradually understood the circumstances.

Now I'm rather proud to say that I've saved my grandson's life.

I wonder why Higuchi has lost his temper. Hey, he isn't your son nor your master, but my dear grandson.

How could you fulfil your duty as a warrior by letting him die with you?

You can't understand my elaborate means as his grandfather, can you?

You may bear a grudge against me, but I'm sorry you don't understand me.

"He speaks in a faltering voice."

"Oh, I'm glad you informed against me, says Matsuemon and sheds tears of joy, but immediately he rises to his feet and gets near Shigetada."

Matsu: Since you're the noted warrior Kajiwara, I should like to fight with you till the rivet of my sword comes off and die fighting, but in the battle of Awazu you showed your kindness toward my younger sister Tomoe, I hear. I can't fight with you for your benevolence, so I'll commit "harakiri" and let you behead me.

"In less than no time ----"

Shige: I, Shigetada, won't behead your dead body ~~y~~ upon my honor.

. If you know you're no match for me, you should be arrested by me without resistance.

Matsu: It's a warrior's custom to commit "harakiri" when luck is against him. Are you goin' to let me expose myself to an open shame, as you want to put a rope on me?

Shige: Don't be silly, Higuchi. Among Kiso-dono's retainers you were called the strongest man of the four Devos. It's admirable that you should try to avenge your master's death.

I, Shigemitsu, understand how General Yoshitsune feels, so I'll arrest you.

"He draws near Higuchi and twists the latter's arm."

Matsu: I know you, Shigemitsu, are a well-known hero in the eight provinces of the Kanto District I, Higuchi, am not inferior to you in strength, so I could easily disengage myself from your grasp, but I respect your wisdom and valour. Anyway, you'd better do as you like.

"He turns his right arm."

Shige: Thanks to the general's benevolent rule, I've arrested Higuchi with two powers, civil and military virtues.

"Both of them are heroes and respect humanity and justice."

Say, woman, Wematsu is his precious child, isn't he?

Let the child bid farewell to him.

"O-yoshi gets near the child tearfully."

Oyoshi: He has been your foster-father, you know. Now you must part from him for the last time in this world. Let him look closely at you.

"Uematsu draws close to Matsueemon."

Matsu: Say, Uematsu, say good-bye to me without calling me papa.

Uematsu: Good-bye, Higuchi.
"The child is reluctant to leave his foster-father."

Shige: There are many who enjoy longevity in this world, though.

Matsu: It is hard for me to part with them.

Gon: The old live out.

Oyoshi: The young join the majority.

Shige: We can't let things in this world take their course as we wish.

All: Just like the pine tree used for making the inverted oar.

"Even now his name is spoken of at Fukushima."

(All of them pose.)

----- Curtain -----